

January Climate Summary

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
GRAND RAPIDS MI

By David Beachler

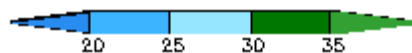
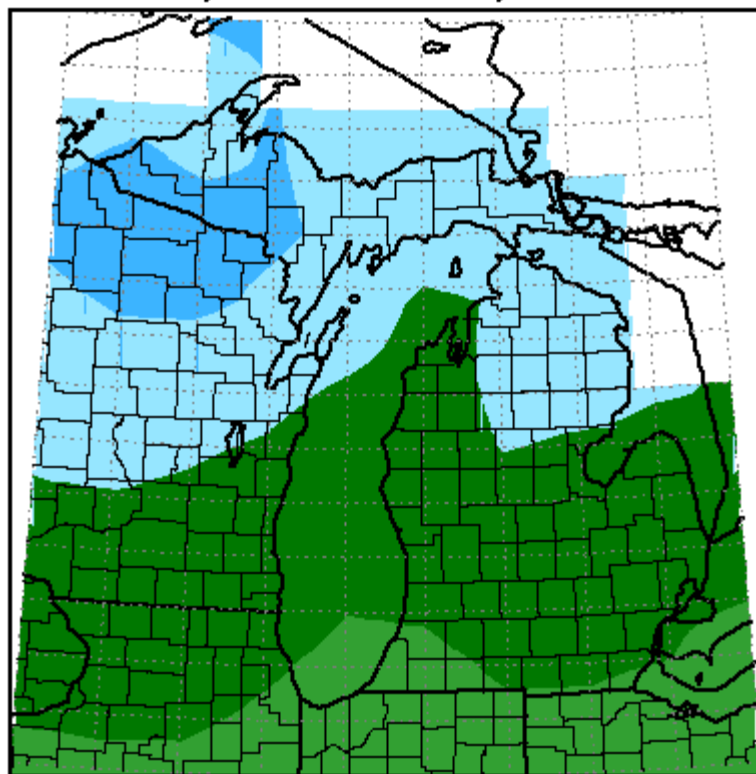
The final weeks of December brought forth a pattern change to a zonal regime. In a zonal flow scenario, systems move into the Pacific Northwest region of the United States and quickly move east across the northern latitudes. With the present air mass originating across the Pacific Ocean, associated will be moisture and mild temperatures. This allowed the warmer than normal conditions in late December to persist through January. The exception was a few days where conditions were normal.

Across southwest Lower Michigan, January 2006 was the warmest since 1932. The number of days with maximum temperatures at or below freezing was also near record lows across the area. Muskegon had one day with a high at or below freezing, Grand Rapids had four, and Lansing five. In a typical January, nearly half of the month would observe days with daily maximum temperatures at or below freezing. In addition, no single day average temperature was below normal. The last time this happened was 1990.

Precipitation was well above normal across southwest Lower Michigan. Moisture remnants from Pacific Ocean systems, joined moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and dropped abundant precipitation across the Great Lakes region. Numerous sites in southwest Lower Michigan ranked in the top ten wettest for January. This resulted in high stream flows across the area by months end.

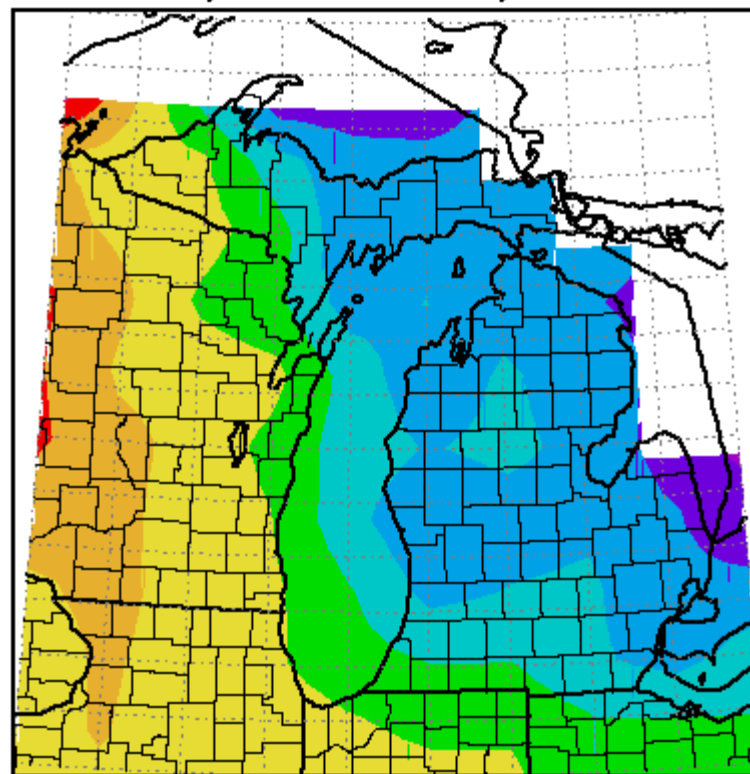
There was a significant snow storm in January that impacted all of southwest Lower Michigan. The snow began falling during the evening of Friday January 20th, and became heavy by midnight persisting through early Saturday January 21st. Numerous locations reported six to eleven inches of snow along and north of interstate 96, one to three inches south of interstate 96 to along interstate 94 from Van Buren county east through Jackson counties.

Average Temperature in Degrees F
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006



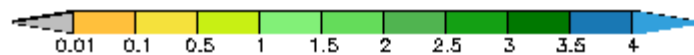
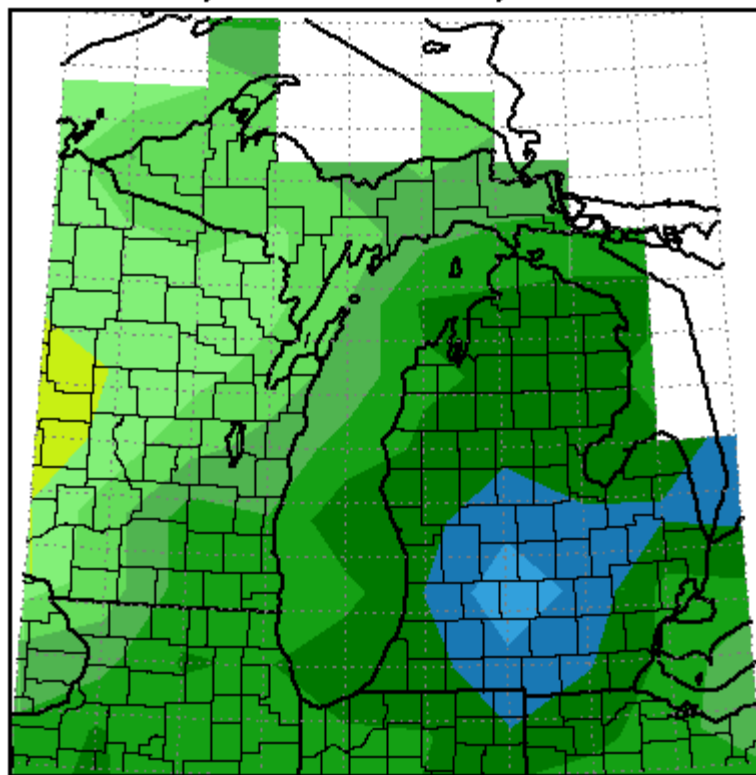
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006



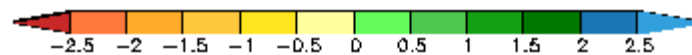
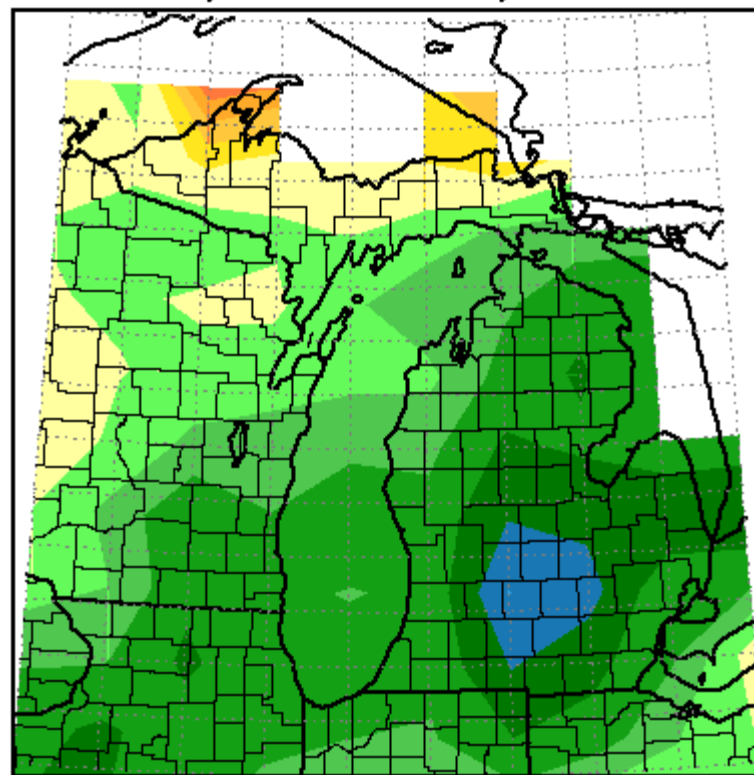
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Total Precipitation in Inches
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006



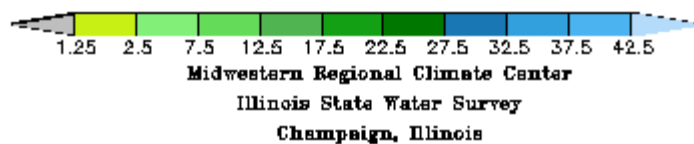
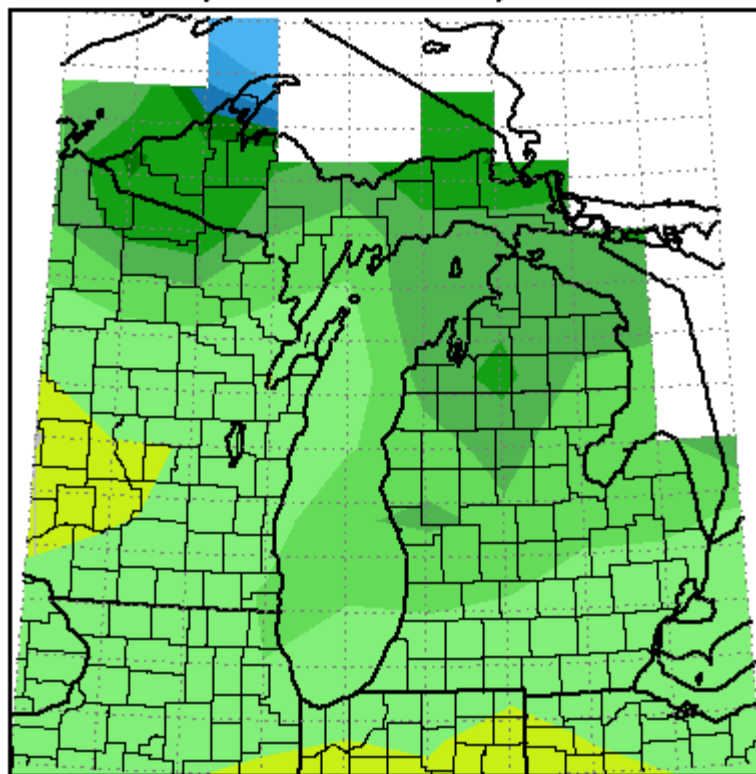
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Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006



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Champaign, Illinois

Total Snowfall in Inches
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006



Total Snowfall Departure from Mean in Inches
January 1, 2006 to January 31, 2006

